



# Employee News

March 2003

News and Information for Muscatatuck SDC and Madison State Hospital Employees during the transition to community-based services.

## **Update — Governor's Commission Awards Mini-Grants for Community Partnerships**

The Indiana Family and Social Services Administration and the Governor's Commission on Home and Community-Based Care have awarded 12 mini-grants totaling more than \$430,000 to expand home and community-based services for the elderly and disabled.

Grantees in this first round of awards include: a collaborative project with Richmond's local government to provide better access to public transportation for the disabled in rural areas; retaining a case manager in South Bend to help with residential treatment for developmentally disabled ex-offenders transitioning back into the community; training and support for consumer-directed care providers employed by aged and disabled Medicaid Waiver clients in Bloomington; and training materials for the transitional care of developmentally disabled and mentally ill consumers in Logansport.

Applications for the second round of grants are due by Tuesday, April 15, 2003. For more information or mini-grant application materials, visit the Commission's home page at:

<http://www.in.gov/fssa/community>

## **Secretary Hamilton Responds to a Question About The Southeast Region's Structure**

**Q** What is the organizational structure for the eight regional service centers? And, specifically how will they interrelate?

**A** In November 2000, the Governor's Council on State-Operated Care Facilities recommended that, whenever possible, people should be served in the community - not in facilities. The Council's final report called for the creation of regional services in eight areas around the state. The Southeast was the first region to complete a planning process and have a regional director assigned. The organizational chart (see page 3) shows the way in which all FSSA divisions will be involved in working with community partners, consumers, families and providers to coordinate services. A permanent advisory panel will be named this spring to work with FSSA in identifying needs, service gaps and ways to fill them.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'John Hamilton'.



### **Becky Franklin Certified Pharmacy Technician**

Becky Franklin called MSDC home from age six until her thirteenth birthday. Becky's father oversaw the storeroom and the family lived in campus housing. At the age of fourteen, Becky's family moved to Butlerville where Becky attended and graduated from North Vernon High School.

Becky's first job at MSDC was in the research lab. She was seventeen. Becky soon married and moved to Huntsville, Alabama where she lived for three years. Since returning to MSDC, Becky has had various positions. She has worked as a DST, a Ward Clerk, and currently works in Medical Records.

When training funds became available through FSSA, Becky ordered a home study program from Professional Career Development Institute in Norcross, Georgia. This was Becky's first attempt at a formal education since graduating from high school. Becky successfully completed the course requirements in seven months and has received her Pharmacy Technician Certificate. Becky attributes her experience in the research lab and in medical records in preparing her for the Pharmacy Technician Course.

When asked when she plans to leave MSDC, Becky replies, "I will be with the group that stays to lock the doors." Once the doors are locked, Becky plans to use her experience and training to work for a local drug store or hospital.



### **Message from Nikki Morrell**

I am pleased and excited FSSA Secretary John Hamilton has chosen me to lead the Agency's 18-county Southeast Region. I look forward to the challenges and the satisfaction of being FSSA's first Regional Director. Our success in this new endeavor – coordinating and providing services for people with disabilities, mental illness or addictions – will be the result of the hard work of many people who believe in community-based services. My professional philosophy, based on many years in human services, is that the individuals we serve should have access to a full continuum of services available near their homes. It is extremely important that these individuals' loved ones be active participants in service design and decision-making. Choice is central to the provision and coordination of services to those in need of FSSA's services.

I will work with an advisory panel to ensure that decisions are based on the input of many.

Part of the service delivery system in the Southeast Region will be a Regional Center, using portions of the current campus of Madison State Hospital. Plans are underway for the construction of new areas, and the rehabilitation of some current buildings. The Center will be the "base-camp" for the Region and will include in-patient units as well as an outreach center.

The future holds much promise and many changes in service delivery. As Regional Director, I am proud to be part of this future and look forward to working with you.

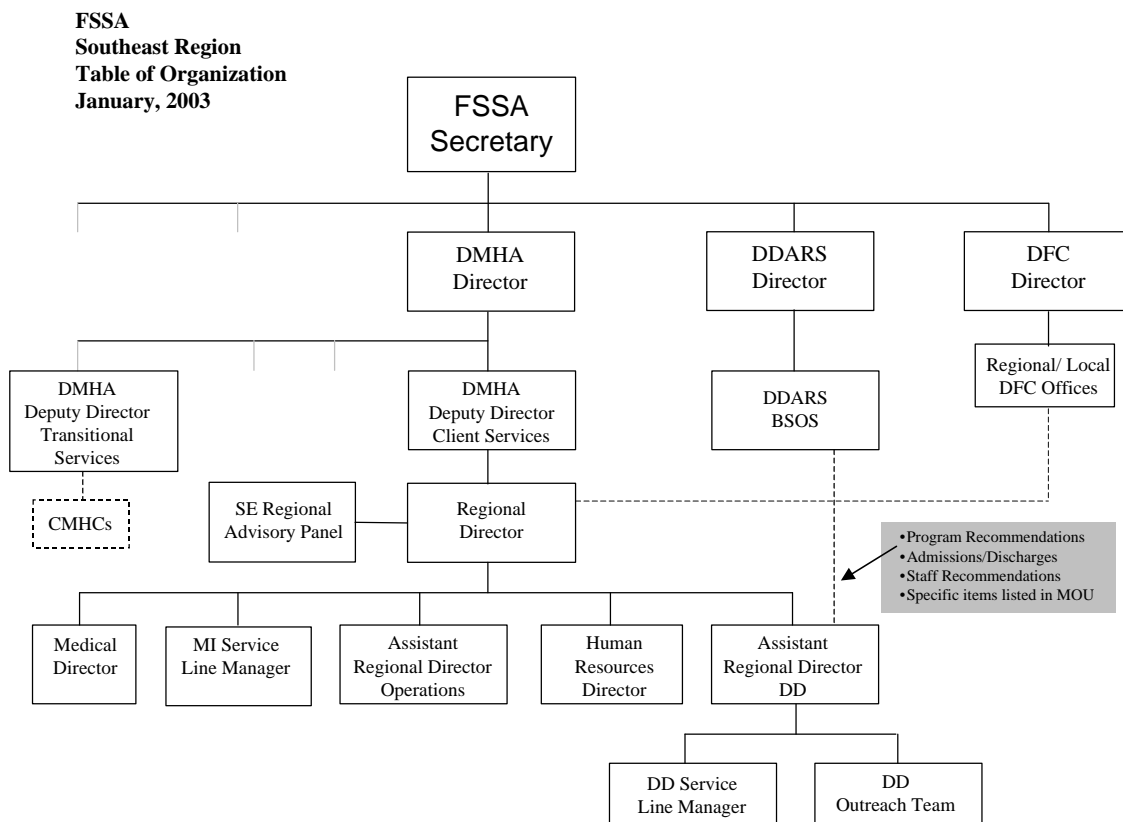


## Surviving Career Changes

A fact of life in today's job market is the probability that you or someone you know will be faced with the necessity for a career change at some point. How this opportunity is viewed is critical to survival. While it's never easy to lose a job, you can make the transition smoother by being prepared both in attitude and aptitude. A positive outlook and current marketable skills will keep you in demand. Consider the following.

- *You are still the same valued employee and person* – as a person you are more important than any job or career you'll have. Your unique set of skills and experiences is invaluable.
- *Take advantage of career counseling and placement services* – counselors can help you update and fine-tune your resume, and help you polish your job-seeking skills. Many career and placement services have the inside track on jobs suited to your needs and abilities.
- *Be sure to maintain current samples of work that you've done* – If you lose your job suddenly, you may forget some of your important work that would improve your standing with a potential employer. Where possible, retain a copy of your work.
- *Invest in yourself* – the job market is wide open to people with current training and skills. Taking classes enhances you threefold; you will fine-tune your marketable skills, be in a networking environment, and stay motivated and enthusiastic.

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### Keep In Mind

MSDC/MSH Info Hot Line:  
**800-903-9822**

Div. of Disability, Aging &  
Rehab Services:  
**800-545-7763**

Ombudsman: **800-622-4484**

Div. of Mental Health &  
Addiction:  
**800-901-1133**

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### Future Issues

- ◆ Resources
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"Some succeed because they are  
destined to, but most succeed  
because they are determined to."  
— Anonymous

As of 2/18/03 we have used \$618,406 of the  
training fund. A total of 473 employees have  
participated in some manner. This leaves 295  
eligible employees who have not used any of  
the funds.

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